

# The Farmington Times

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## WARS AND RUMORS OF WAR

The papers yesterday were filled with sensational reports, documents and circumstantial inferences to the effect that Germany, Japan and Mexico were fomenting a plan to war on the United States. Japan is and has been an ally of the Entente Allies, but it is said that Japan, through Mexican mediation, was to be urged to abandon her allies and join in the attack on the United States. Mexico for her reward was to receive general financial support from Germany, reconquer Texas, New Mexico and Arizona—lost provinces—and share in the victorious peace terms Germany contemplates. What Japan is to get for deserting the Allies is not definitely stated. All of which is very sensational and makes exciting reading just now, but there is no use for any one to worry over these rumors. Such a mix-up might be to Germany's liking in her present temper, but Japan is going to think a long time before she deserts her allies to make war on the United States, and Mexico, torn and rent with internal strife, is a poor peer for Germany to lean upon should she unfortunately force us into war.

## BE TRULY AMERICAN

A recent press-dispatch from Chicago tells of an investigating committee, which is making inquiries into the increased cost of living, having discovered a cold storage plant in that city wherein is now stored 150,000,000 pounds of meat. The investigators, heavily clothed to protect themselves from the intense cold, walked for miles through this plant, where nothing could be seen but frozen carcasses of beef.

This piece of news seems to furnish a solution to the high cost of living. It means that brokers and commission men have garnered unto themselves the surplus foodstuffs of the country, and that they are passing it out at their own prices, only in such quantities as will uphold the present excessive cost, or perhaps push it a little higher still.

Of all combinations that have heretofore come to light in the past history of this country, this combination is certainly the most gigantic and far-reaching. To thus put a premium upon the necessities of life, and throwing additional handicaps and hardships in the pathway of life, must have required the ingenuity of the Devil himself.

Every two or four years the people of the United States are handed large chunks of gaff, intended to show how the citizenship of this country is enjoying exceptional blessings in the way of privileges, which should be highly prized. One of the most over-worked gobs of "bull" is the theory of "protection" which American workmen are said to enjoy.

Now will the dispensers of this "con" ever have the nerve to again attempt to hand out such stuff? We suppose they will. But the facts in the case are that America has been more enormously imposed upon, as is now being demonstrated in sky-scraping prices of life's necessities, than has any other country on earth.

The facts appear to be now finally developing that the American people are absolutely without any protection, insofar as the old-fashioned principle of "to live and let live" is concerned. The time now seems to be at hand when the people should make their demands known, and to insist on a hearing.

If such a hearing cannot be had through the representatives they elect to represent them, then some other method should be brought into use. Talk about the working people of the United States enjoying "protection!" All the so-called "protection" the people of this country ever have "enjoyed" was but another species of graft.

Even now, in the midst of the most glaring and gigantic destruction of humanity the world has ever known, the prices of foodstuffs in the warring nations is not nearly so high as they are right here in the grand United States. The shame of it! If no better way can be devised, then the government should step in and provide itself a real protector by fixing the prices of life's necessities. The time is here for action in this matter. It is all right to feed the Belgians. But we are strong for first helping Americans to feed themselves.

## A TIMELY REPORT

A sub-committee of the Missouri House of Representatives, of which Representative Richard Correll is chairman, made a report to Governor Gardner last Tuesday that throws some light on the large deficit which the State has to meet. It criticizes the management of the State University, and mentions "traveling bags, lap-robes, the engraving of watches, an automobile, auto supplies and tool boxes" bought in the last two years by that institution and charged to the state. It also explains that part of the \$25,000 deficit at the State University for "traveling expenses" was not "money spent by professors doing the work" in the Agricultural Extension department.

The report recommends that a total of \$90,000 of bills now outstanding against the various State institutions be refused payment on the ground that they exceeded the appropriations made by the last General Assembly, and asks that personal responsibility be required for certain debts incurred in excess of appropriation at the instance of those having charge of these institutions.

In discussing the report Governor Gardner is quoted as saying: "There is only one way of stopping this business of taking State funds at will, and that is to insist on personal responsibility. If anybody spends State money in excess of appropriations he should be held accountable. I am not in favor of the State paying such deficiencies."

And he might have gone further and said that such assumption of authority and misuse of the public funds should be made a penal offense, the same as embezzlement. Embezzlement is the appropriation of funds over which one has charge to his own personal and private use, and what else may we call the purchase of traveling bags, the engraving of watches, the purchase of automobiles without direct authority of the Legislature to do so, some of the things cited by the committee's report against the State University?

A number of unwarrantable uses of the public money is pointed out, to say nothing of exceeding appropriation allowances, and a wholesome recommendation is made for the lopping off of useless or superfluous clerkships. The business of the State has been too long conducted in a hap-hazard and irresponsible manner, and it is time to call a halt and get down to common sense business methods. Governor Gardner has made some good recommendations and suggested some good measures to bring this about. If the Legislature can improve on these, which is doubtful, well and good, but by all means it should join him and work in harmony with his purpose to bring about necessary reforms and business methods in the conduct of State affairs.

## SUPPRESSING SUPPLY

A Chicago telegram of last Tuesday says that "officials of the U. S. Department of Justice and the State's Attorney's office, taking the Chicago 'food census', have learned that there are 150,000,000 pounds of meat in local storage plants."

One hundred and fifty million pounds of meats in cold storage in one city alone—a pound and a half for every man, woman and child in the United States! Prices of meat and all food commodities are regulated by supply and demand, and when the country's supply of meats or of any other food products is artificially reduced by withholding it from the market, the market price necessarily goes up and the high cost of living, which is grinding the faces of the poor, keeps on climbing.

The cold storage process, which should be a blessing to mankind, is thus made a curse by unscrupulous and grasping corporations and combinations of capital for speculative purposes. It cannot be claimed that this 150,000,000 pounds of meat is thus held in cold storage because there is no demand for it. It is held there to whet the demand until those who are able are willing to pay exorbitant prices to satisfy their natural craving for meat. The cold storage renders it imperishable so that the Shylocks who hold it run no risk of losing—they speculate on a certainty and the craving needs of the poor, their famishing families and children. They would sacrifice these to their idol, the Almighty Dollar.

Artificially created high prices and

speculation in foodstuffs are crimes against humanity. It is only the grasping greed of mankind in general, each trying to take advantage of his brother for his own individual gain—to put himself on easy street if he has to shove his neighbor back into the alleys and slums of want—that stands in the way of making them statutory crimes. But, while the people as a whole may be victimized, we go on paying the successful speculator the tribute of our respect and homage. Success, like charity, covereth a multitude of sins.

## ASKS "ARMED NEUTRALITY"

President Wilson appeared before Congress last Monday and asked for authority to place the United States in a state of "armed neutrality" to restrict the German submarine menace. He asked to be empowered to take whatever steps are necessary—the arming of American merchant ships, conveying merchantmen by war vessels, or whatever steps he may be forced to take.

The President cited that two American vessels had already been sunk, and since his address another large steamer, the Laconia, has been sunk by a submarine, and two American women are among its victims. He said "It would be foolish to deny that the situation is fraught with the gravest possibilities and dangers. No thoughtful man can fail to see that the necessity for definite action may come at any time," and in view of the early expiration of the present Congress by constitutional limitation—March 4—he wants its authority behind him in any emergency that may arise. Even were he to call an extra session of the next Congress, it would require an unusual length of time for it to assemble and organize and be ready to act should an emergency for immediate action arise.

The President said: "I am not now proposing nor contemplating war or any steps that need lead to it. I merely require that you will accord me by your own vote and definite bestowal the means and the authority to safeguard in practice the rights of a great people who are at peace and who are desirous of exercising none but the rights of peace."

It is believed that before Congress adjourns it will grant the President's request, though there has seemed for the last few days a disposition to hold back for some reason—some of the Republicans, because, it is said, they want to force the President to call an extra session of the next Congress. But this is no time to play politics, and there is little doubt that before Congress adjourns it will do what the President has asked of it.

## WIPE THE SLATE CLEAN

Governor Gardner's proposition that the State borrow \$2,000,000, refund outstanding accounts, wipe the slate clean and henceforth run the State on a common sense business basis, will meet with the approval of all who give it thoughtful attention. There are now outstanding accounts against the State to the amount that he proposes the State shall borrow. It is no time to stop and parley over how this deficit occurred—though it is apparently the result of an endeavor to meet the additional cost of progressive, constructive and needed legislation passed by the previous General Assembly with an inadequate revenue. There may have been small leakages here and there, as there are in all State governments, but these have been inconsiderable—the general business has been honestly conducted, though perhaps not along approved business methods. The practical fact to be faced is, that this indebtedness is a just claim against the State, must be paid, and the growing needs of the State looked after.

The outstanding accounts are drawing rates of interest ranging from 7 to 8 per cent. There will not be sufficient revenue to pay them for months to come, and if the revenue coming in were used for that purpose there would be no money in the Treasury to meet current expenses. To borrow the money and refund this indebtedness, the rate of interest can be reduced almost one-half, and about \$75,000 a year saved to the State in that item. If the Governor's revenue measures are adopted by the Legislature, it is believed the revenue derived from them will be sufficient to pay off the indebtedness and meet all the other expenses of government and proposed reforms, but this revenue will not be available for more than a year. This would work an inconvenience not to say hardship on the State's creditors, and the high rates of interest would be eating into the revenue at a ravenous rate.

Last Saturday the Governor addressed the bankers of St. Louis on his proposition of a loan, and found that there was a general sentiment among them favoring the plan. They are ready to make the State a loan of \$2,000,000 or any other sum that may be wanted. They only want to be cer-

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veterinary

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Mercks Chemicals used  
exclusively because  
they are best

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## Circuit Court

Disposition made of cases taken up, tried or continued since report in last issue of The Times:

### State Cases.

Irvin AuBuchon, carnal knowledge; trial by jury, and after deliberating more than ten hours the jury could not agree and were therefore discharged. By leave of court an amended information was filed.

Carter Ashlock, illegal sale of intoxicants; motion to quash was taken up by the court and overruled.

George Black, grand larceny; plea of guilty, and punishment assessed at two years' imprisonment in the penitentiary. Duly sentenced Feb. 26.

John Cook, illegal sale of intoxicants; continued on application of defendant and at his cost.

James Cook and James Roux, illegal sale of intoxicants; motion to quash overruled by the court; cause continued on application of defendants and at their cost.

George Gann, robbery; continued on application of the State.

Sam Larue, illegal sale of intoxicants; continued on application of State.

Joe Martin, assault with intent to kill; continued by agreement.

Geo. McClure, illegal sale of cigarettes; dismissed by State on payment of costs by defendant.

James Roux, illegal sale of intoxicants; continued on application of defendant and at his cost.

Andro Tyrapak, illegal sale; dismissed by State on payment of costs by defendant.

Vernon Willette, illegal sale; dismissed by State at cost of defendant.

Wm. Whaley, assault with intent to kill; continued by agreement to May term.

Roy Williams, assault with intent to kill; continued by agreement to May term.

James Thornton, illegal sale of intoxicants, plea of guilty and punishment assessed at \$300; upon payment of costs fine stayed upon good behavior.

Felix O. Poston, embezzlement; dismissed by State on payment of costs by defendant.

J. E. Wright, assault with intent to rape; continued on application of State.

John Welborn, carnal knowledge; continued by agreement of counsel.

Wm. Buxton, murder; plea of guilty entered; Prosecuting Attorney recommended life sentence as punishment, and court so assessed and defendants was duly sentenced February 26.

Geo. Ratley and Clarence E. Smith, grand larceny; plea of guilty entered as to both defendants and punishment assessed at two years in the penitentiary for each defendant. They were duly sentenced February 26th, sentence of Smith to begin at time when he was committed to jail, Dec. 20, 1916.

F. S. Pair, illegal sale of intoxicants; continued on application of State.

J. E. Edwards, appeal from J. P.; continued by agreement of attorneys.

C. F. Postlewait, appeal from J. P.; continued by agreement of attorneys.

A. Royanchek, appeal from J. P.; dismissed by the State.

Mark McCutcheon, grand larceny; plea of guilty, punishment assessed at two years in the penitentiary and defendant duly sentenced.

A number of cases of illegal sale of intoxicants are set for March 19th and 20th, among them five informations against Joe Frizzell, four against Joe Downs, three against Wm. Montgomery, and two against John Wilkerson; also one against Joe Downs and Hy Harris for subornation of perjury.

### Civil Cases.

Hattie E. Nixon vs. Ada M. Waide, note; continued by agreement of parties to May term.

E. E. Whitesides vs. Wm. Blue, Sheriff, et al.; change of venue from

Iron county; trial by jury and verdict for defendants.

McCarthy Lumber Co. vs. Lee F. Kinder et al., mechanics lien; continued to May term; defendants granted leave to plead on or before May 1st, and cause set down for trial on May 18th.

Bessie Rickard vs. Hugh Campbell; judgment entered in favor of plaintiff by agreement for \$250 and costs.

J. W. Highley vs. John McBrien et al., note; application for change of venue filed and application granted; cause sent to Potosi, Washington County, Circuit Court.

Frank Richardson vs. Louisa Richardson; motion to strike out taken up by court and sustained; exceptions noted, and cause ordered dismissed.

John Kollmeyer vs. Joseph Williams et al., note; application for change of venue granted, and by agreement of counsel Edward A. Rozier is to try the case.

F. L. Stevens vs. Louis J. Casey, note; judgment by default for \$79.54.

## ENGROSSED BILLS

The following bills passed to engrossment in the Legislature last week:

In the Senate—Authorizing County Courts to appropriate money to local organizations holding farmers' institutes and short course studies; providing for the establishment of a public service commission to control and regulate public service corporations, persons and public utilities; providing for establishment of special road districts in counties having township organization and providing for assessment of benefits; prohibiting capturing or killing of quail for a period of 10 years; requiring domestic and foreign corporations to pay an annual franchise tax; creating a State bureau of dairying; prohibiting railroads from collecting charges on undelivered freight; creating the Missouri stallion and jack registration and education board; establishing a bureau of marketing under the direction of State Board of Agriculture; submitting a constitutional amendment for a tax of 10 cents on the \$100 valuation for public roads; prescribing that none but attorneys shall be eligible to serve as probate judges; providing for regulations of sales of pistols; submitting an amendment to the constitution declaring that prohibition shall be in effect in the State after November 1, 1919; providing that notes shall be listed with assessors and stamped.

In the House—creating and establishing a public service commission to regulate and control public service corporations, persons and public utilities; empowering the State Board of Education with the powers to discharge the functions and duties of a State text book commission; providing for the imposition and collection of a State tax on soft drinks; providing that county clerks shall let printing of ballots to lowest bidder; requiring that all employees must be paid immediately upon being discharged; changing the compensation of assessors; providing for an inheritance tax; requiring domestic and foreign corporations doing business in this State to pay an annual franchise tax.

"Let us have faith that right makes might; and in that faith let us dare to do our duty as we understand it."—Abraham Lincoln.

From present indications, all those who have been rampant for war will perhaps soon have an opportunity to enlist. The "Jingoes" are largely responsible for the crisis which now appears to be at hand. No true American will hesitate to go to the front when it comes to actually fighting for his country, but those who have been "noisy" for protecting the "national honor" should be forced into the front ranks.

If every citizen will work  
earnestly for Farmington  
Then Farmington will work  
more earnestly for all